

October 12, 2009

### **OBEY IN RHINELANDER TO REVIEW ARRA EFFORTS**

RHINELANDER, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) said in Rhinelander today that “very few communities have received more significant help under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) than has Rhinelander.” Obey was in town to see first-hand how the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest plans to use the \$5 million received in federal Recovery funds for efforts which will provide employment for local people and refurbish forest facilities. The funding for these efforts came through legislation produced by the House Appropriations Committee which Obey chairs.

Among the job-producing efforts planned using the federal Recovery funds are the following:

- Restoration of the historic Civilian Conservation Corps sites;
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- Renovation of the Rhinelander office to become a more efficient and accessible building;
- Replacement of culverts and bridges throughout the forest;
- Reducing the hazards of wild land fires;
- Maintenance for forest roads;
- Upgrades to aging recreational facilities including forest camp grounds, docks, etc.

Obey noted, “This is the third major initiative that Rhinelander has seen as a direct result of the Recovery Act.” Rhinelander also received significant federal grants through the Recovery Act which benefited the local airport and is financing major upgrades to the community’s sewer and water system.

The Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests were established in the early 1930’s and were officially combined into the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) in 1988. The forest comprises more than 1.5 million acres and spans 11 Northern Wisconsin counties. CNNF employs 223 full-time workers operating five Ranger Districts, two Visitor Centers, as well as 50 employees at the Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center. Last year, more

than 2.1 million people visited the CNNF.

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